

# A GRAND BALL!

The People Say Aloha and Farewell  
to the Boston.

A BRILLIANT ASSEMBLAGE  
OF CITIZENS AND  
NAVAL OFFICERS.

THE DECORATIONS AND FESTIVITIES  
AT THE EXECUTIVE  
BUILDING LAST NIGHT.

(From Daily, Sept. 26.)

For years the old palace, now the executive building, has not presented so fine an appearance, both inside and out, as it did last night during the ball to the officers of the U. S. cruiser Boston. All day yesterday was a busy one with the decorating committee, and a large number of willing hands were employed putting the finishing touches to walls and mirrors and chandeliers, stairways and alcoves, verandas and corner rooms, with which the people of Honolulu are so well acquainted.

The front of the building was hung with hundreds of small and large Japanese lanterns arranged upon cords crossed between the pillars of the upper and lower front verandas. The effect of the illumination as seen last night showed what careful arrangement could do to bring out the beauty of the executive building, and add to the festal splendor of the scene.

The main lower hallway and the grand staircase once reached, the guests were ushered at once into a fairy bower. The newel posts of the stair were draped with American and Hawaiian flags, and underneath the second raise of the stairway were hung more flags, alternating with those below. The alcoves and door of the hallway not in use were filled with choice pots of ferns and Japanese bamboo from the garden of Mrs. George Boardman, who, under the direction of Mr. George Stratemeyer, had charge of the interior arrangements. The numerous chandeliers of the hallway were twined with red, white and blue ribbons. In the center of the entrance was placed a large ottoman of red silk, surmounted by a silver flower stand of red and pink blossoms.

The council chambers, where the ball was held, was a marvel of the decorators' art. Around this magnificent room festoons of fragrant ferns were hung. The dais lately occupied by the president's chair was occupied by evergreens, behind which was draped an American flag, over which was placed the single suggestive word, "Boston," in gold letters on a blue ground. The mirrors on the Ewa side of the chambers were the handsomest feature of the decorations. They were the result of Mrs. George Boardman's skill, and perhaps surpass anything of the kind ever attempted in Honolulu on the same scale. The effect was not produced by profusion but by the skillful arrangement and contrasting of colors, ranging from the dark green of tropical vines to the brilliant glow of variegated carnations in crystal containers. The gilt window frames were each surmounted by an alternate gold and silver shield placed at the center. The ceiling was crossed and intercrossed with red, white and blue ribbons hung from the crystal chandeliers. The floor was in superb condition, and in front of the dais were placed seven of the beautiful pieces of the old blue room set of furniture, which were occupied by the following lady patronesses of the ball: Mrs. S. B. Dole, Mrs. H. W. Severance, Mrs. W. O. Smith, Mrs. H. F. Glade, Mrs. S. G. Wilder, Mrs. E. D. Tenney and Mrs. Dr. J. S. McGrew.

The main landing of the stairway was draped with American and Hawaiian flags and palms. In

the main hallway above were laid the supper tables and the four verandas on the sides of the building were filled with chairs and tables to accommodate the guests at supper. Further accommodations were given on the second floor in the gold room, in front of the foreign office, which was converted into a sitting room and the apartments of the attorney-general, which were arranged for with, drawing and card rooms.

Arrangements for the personal comfort of guests were made on the lower floor. The finance department was cleared for the use of the gentlemen and half of the interior office was partitioned off with Russian and American flags as a toilet for the ladies. The remainder of the interior office was used as an ante-room for serving refreshments and supper to the dining hall above the dumb waiters.

Promptly at the hour specified carriages began to arrive and within a few moments of 8 o'clock it seemed that all the hacks in Honolulu were depositing the people of the city at the steps of the executive building.

Professor Berger and his twenty-four musicians, who furnished music for the dancers, occupied a position on the Waikiki side of the building. The admiral's band, which was furnished through the kindness of Admiral Skerrett, was placed on the Ewa side of the front veranda, and discoursed sweet music between dances. This proved to be a special feature of the evening's entertainment, and was thoroughly appreciated by the numerous promenading parties.

Captains Gartenburg, W. W. Hall, Camara, Pratt, Rodgers, Major Potter and McLeod and Colonel Soper received the guests at the front entrance and escorted them to the respective dressing rooms. Among the early arrivals were Mrs. President Dole and Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Smith. Mrs. Dole was accompanied by Major Potter. Several prominent native Hawaiians also arrived during the early part of the evening.

Promptly at 8 o'clock the admiral's band commenced playing, opening with a patriotic American air. Soon after several officers of the Boston arrived, followed by Captain Barker, of the Philadelphia, Captain Nelson, of the Adams, U. S. Consul-General Severance, Hon. John Ena and Chief Justice Judd. At a quarter past 8 o'clock the doors of the council chamber were thrown open and the reception of guests commenced. The lady patronesses took a position on the Waikiki side of the room. The order of reception was as follows: Admiral Skerrett and staff—Lieutenants Wilson and Fox—officers of the Boston, Captains Barker and Nelson, Chief Justice Judd and associate justices of the supreme court, Vice-President Hatch and members of the cabinet, U. S. Consul-General Severance, German Consul Glade, and Goo Kim, Chinese commercial agent, accompanied by Ah Lo. After these had been received the ladies and gentlemen present entered and passed in front of the ladies.

It took some time for the immense throng to assemble. While the reception was in progress both bands played appropriate selections. All the naval officers appeared in social evening dress, and met with a most hearty reception.

As the hour of 9 approached, Professor Berger's most excellent musicians commenced playing the first number on the programme. This was known as the Saratoga lancers, and some 85 couples participated.

An interval of some 15 minutes elapsed between dances, during which the admiral's band furnished most appropriate and entrancing music. Especial mention is due both bands for the delightful music furnished.

The scene proved a most pleasing one, and to the soft swells of entrancing music brave men and fair ladies spent a most pleasant and delightful evening—long to be remembered. It would be a matter of impossibility to describe the many beautiful and elaborate costumes worn by many of the ladies present, suffice it to say that they were of a most uncommon order and reflected a refined taste.

Before going further into the details of the evening's entertainment, it is but just to record that Caterer Freimann furnished an elaborate and sumptuous spread, made up of the rarest delicacies to be had in the market. In this respect the specially prepared light punches proved to be of a rare manufacture, and was partaken of with great zest.

On the upper floor, where the supper was served, numbers of small and large tables, conveniently arranged, were laden with the choicest viands procurable. On the upper balcony small tables were placed, capable of sitting from 4 to 6 persons. Attentive waiters furnished what was desired, orders being made from an elaborate and varied bill of fare. This feature proved

most convenient and avoided an undue rush at the main tables. In order to meet the required demand, supper was served from 10 o'clock.

The entertainment was in every sense a flattering success and a fitting reception to those to whom it was extended.

Credit is due to each and every one connected with the different management.

The affair was carried out without the slightest jar, both inside and out.

A number of extra guards were placed on duty in and around the grounds, a special guard being placed at each mounted cannon in and out of the building.

The officers of the U.S.S. Boston may well be proud of last night's entertainment, and they can look back upon it as one of the most agreeable occasions in which they ever participated.

Dancing was kept up until a late hour. A careful estimate showed at least one thousand persons present. Mr. John Hassinger, who presided over the refreshment booth, discharged his duties in a manner satisfactory to all and proved a most popular caterer.

## A Pacific Cable.

With reference to the proposed British, German and Australian trans-Pacific telegraph cable, the New York Sun asks why the western end should not be at San Francisco instead of Vancouver, seeing that there would be a saving in the distance of little short of 1000 miles. We imagine that commercially there would be a decided gain by adopting San Francisco as the terminus in the initial cost of construction, in working expenses, and also in revenue, because the cable must break the message at Hawaii, and American interests are dominant there. But this cable has some political ends to serve as well as commercial, or it would not have the official financial backing of Great Britain, Germany and Australia. It is not to be a line dependent wholly upon the requirements of trade, but is to be subsidized, and no doubt some compensatory privileges are attached in regard to official messages. This is not the usual course of England. It leaves the cable companies, as a rule, alone in their enterprise, and gives its aid in the shape of messages, which form a considerable item of revenue. The sole advantage of having the cable at Vancouver must lie in having this as well as the other terminus on British territory, and available in war time. The awkwardness of not having a cable absolutely at command was illustrated somewhat in Siam during the late imbroglio with France. It is not supposed there was any tampering or dallying with messages, but they had to pass over the wires of British companies, and Britain was deeply concerned in the result of the bellicose dispute. It is said that the aid from Germany will be sufficient to provide the expense incurred between Fiji, Samoa and Hawaii; Australia can defray the expenditure at the southern end and Britain that of the Vancouver section, and thus the burden will be well distributed.

It is a question of time when we shall have an American cable to Honolulu. If, as our contemporary thinks, it would pay, there ought to be no delay, but there are no signs of capital moving. Were the government to propound a policy either on this or on Hawaii itself there might be eagerness shown, but so far all is downright apathy, save in journalistic advocacy. Talk will neither lay this cable nor open the Nicaragua canal. Not ten men out of a hundred in their inmost thoughts deny that these projects are highly desirable and even necessary in the promotion of America's highest political and commercial interests, but with all their available wealth capitalists do not stir, and some of them wield a malign influence in thwarting congressional action on the canal enterprise. In these matters patience is a virtue under severe discipline. The route to the Sandwich islands has been surveyed and shown to be as suitable as any ocean bed. We could even go further with the cable and connect it with the Orient. But at all events it must be stretched between California and Hawaii, where our interests are paramount. A government subsidy need not endure forever. It could be withdrawn when the cable is successful in the business sense, and any official payments thereafter could be conditioned upon the strict performance of service.—S. F. Call.

Of the 116 Chinese steerage passengers for this port by the steamer Oceanic, all but two were landed at the quarantine station yesterday. Two of the Chinese had fraudulent return permits and were not permitted to land. They went on to San Francisco.

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